



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

GOBBRAGH COOIDJAGH SON TRAA RY-HEET SHASSOOAGH

VISION AND STRATEGY 2021-2026



Our planet faces sizeable environmental, social and economic challenges that threaten its long-term sustainability.

The Isle of Man boasts an enviable economy, outstanding natural environment, unique culture and heritage and is bound together by a strong sense of community. However, it is not immune to these global challenges.

We are an outward-looking nation and are eager to play an important role in tackling these challenges for the benefit of future generations.

It was a significant moment for the Isle of Man when, in 2016, it was admitted to UNESCO’s World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Biospheres connect people to the world around them, prompting awareness, care and action. This has never been more important.

Our membership of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme affords us the chance to collaborate with, and learn from, other Biospheres worldwide, and they to learn from us, as we all seek sustainable solutions.

We are determined to be active members of the World Network and maximise the unique opportunities our Biosphere status opens up for us. As we mature as a Biosphere, we are now ready to set out our vision and our strategy for how our status will enhance our lives and shape our work here in the Isle of Man.

The Isle of Man is a special place and it is important to keep it that way.

As we publish this vision and strategy, the Isle of Man is the only ‘entire nation’ Biosphere. Let’s embrace what Biosphere stands for and use it as a platform to work together for a sustainable future.

Hon Howard Quayle MHK
Chief Minister and Chair of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group

Photography: Paul Kane



‘AS I WANDER UP THE HILLSIDE
RESTLESS THOUGHTS ARE LEFT BEHIND
I BREATHE IN THE SOFT, SWEET AIR
WHICH CLEARS MY BUSY MIND.

MY SENSES COME ALIVE
TO THE HUMMING OF THE BEES
SOON ALL AROUND IS FRAGRANT HEATHER,
FAR BELOW THE TREES.’

AN EXCERPT FROM ‘GOLDEN’ BY ALISON CORLETT, AN ENTRY IN THE POETRY MAP PROJECT RUN BY UNESCO BIOSPHERE ISLE OF MAN WITH CULTURE VANNIN AND THE MANX BARD

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WHAT IS
UNESCO'S MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE PROGRAMME?

UNESCO is the United Nations' Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation. Launched in 1971, its global Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme promotes integration between conservation, learning and development to bring about solutions to challenges we face locally and globally. Its aims are:



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Isle of Man
Biosphere Reserve since 2016
Man and the Biosphere Programme

The MAB Programme is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments. It combines the natural and social sciences with a view to improving human livelihoods and safeguarding natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

WHAT IS
UNESCO BIOSPHERE
ISLE OF MAN?

The Isle of Man was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere in 2016 in recognition of its special environment, culture, heritage and economy and its people's desire to cherish and nurture them. The Island is at time of publication (June 2021) the only entire nation Biosphere and all our land and our territorial sea is included. When designated, Biospheres have three zones, or areas. These help Biospheres balance the needs of conservation, the needs of people and the needs of the economy. In the Isle of Man these are:

CORE AREAS:

These are habitats worthy of the highest protection and already protected in law. They include the Ayres National Nature Reserve, Areas of Special Scientific Interest, the Ballaugh Curragh Ramsar site, the Calf of Man, Ramsey Bay Marine Nature Reserve, Port Erin Bay Closed Area, Baie-ny-Carrickey Closed Area, Douglas Bay



Closed Area, Laxey Bay Sea Fisheries Restricted Area and Niarbyl Bay, Sea Fisheries Restricted Area (all now Marine Nature Reserves).

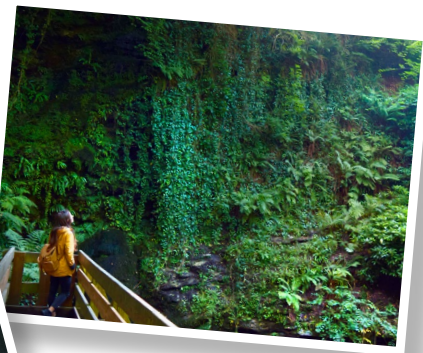
CARE AREAS:

These include sustainably managed ecological and/or heritage areas which enrich people's lives. They include Manx Wildlife Trust nature reserves, Manx National Heritage land, ancient monuments, uplands, glens, public footpaths, plantations, registered trees, water catchment areas and the rest of the Isle of Man's inshore waters, where commercial fishing is more carefully managed.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AREAS:

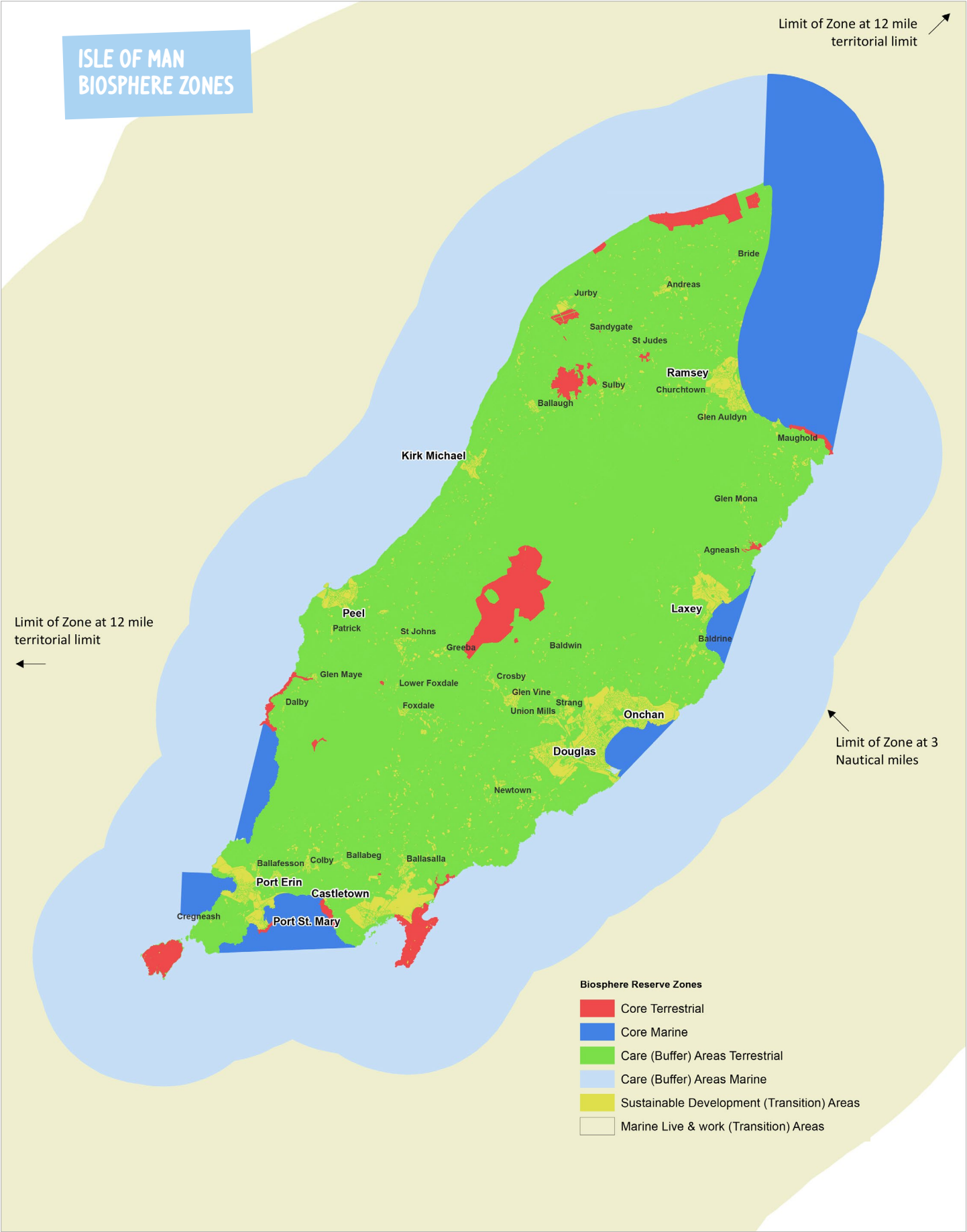
These are the areas where most people live, the towns, villages and the connecting infrastructure, and areas of our sea where we live, work and conduct everyday activity, mindful of our need to live sustainably.

Key aspects of the Isle of Man's natural and historic environments have legislation and policies in place to identify their significance and assign levels of protection. We operate a planning system which balances sustainable development with the protection of the natural and historic environment. Individual features such as Ancient Monuments and Registered Buildings are protected alongside Conservation Areas in towns and villages. Natural sites have legal protection, including Areas of Special Scientific Interest and Marine Nature Reserves, alongside the protection of key species.



Photography: Peter Killey, Leigh Morris, Laura Corcoran, Catharine Devine

Map © Crown Copyright. Department of Infrastructure, Isle of Man



OUR VISION AND STRATEGY AND THE FIVE Es

Our vision is an Island where people and the rest of nature have a sustainable future.

Our shared aim is 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future'. To achieve this, we will deliver our work under five headings.

EDUCATION

- Ensure our people understand our Biosphere and its principles
- Foster understanding of how the way we live, and the decisions we take, affect our sustainability
- Encourage learning about, and adoption of, more sustainable ways of living
- Be a catalyst for good decision-making and innovative solution-finding
- Identify and encourage opportunities on Biosphere-related topics



ENJOYMENT

- Celebrate and promote all that is special about the Isle of Man and its surrounding seas
- Encourage people to access and appreciate our nature, culture, heritage and community
- Encourage enjoyment and participation to foster health and wellbeing
- Celebrate, promote and help people access our heritage and culture, past and present
- Celebrate and contribute to our 'sense of place'



ENGAGEMENT

- Engage our entire community in Biosphere's ethos and aims
- Enable people to more easily connect with nature, culture, heritage and community life
- Engage our population on issues and challenges relating to conservation and sustainability
- Empower individuals to drive change and make a difference, no matter how small
- Inspire our community to be ambassadors for our Biosphere
- Encourage organisations to collaborate with each other to benefit our Biosphere



ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT

- Connect people with nature and their surroundings
- Help people to understand the importance of, and the challenges facing, the environment
- Contribute to preserving and enhancing our land and seascapes and biodiversity
- Recognise and value the environmental, social and economic benefits we gain from our natural systems
- Inspire people to volunteer and take action in their environment



ECONOMY

ECONOMY

- Encourage people to live in, work in and visit the Isle of Man
- Add to our vibrant economy
- Enhance our reputation as an Island that cares and has a conscience
- Encourage a green economy and sustainable ecotourism
- Promote the value of the Isle of Man's unique culture, heritage and community
- Promote the diversity and quality of Isle of Man goods, produce and crafts



SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability matters to our economy, environment and society – and to our very existence.

A simple definition of sustainability is meeting the needs of today without compromising our ability to meet the needs of tomorrow.

Biospheres strive to achieve that, accepting that change cannot always take place overnight and that balance must be achieved between competing needs.

The Man and the Biosphere Programme supports the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, known as the Global Goals, a blueprint for people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. The Goals were published in 2015 and the world aspires to achieve them by 2030.



Everything we do during and after this crisis [COVID-19] must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change, and the many other global challenges we face.

António Guterres
Secretary-General,
United Nations, 2020



THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



STRATEGY

What does our Biosphere status mean for the Isle of Man?

Our Biosphere status celebrates what makes us special and tells the world we care about it, have a conscience and are committed to sustaining it.

Islands need to be more self-reliant than other jurisdictions, establish a local perspective on sustainability and find local solutions to challenges.

As an 'entire nation' Biosphere, the Isle of Man can work collectively to tackle issues that threaten sustainability and find balanced but innovative solutions that can be implemented locally and contribute globally.



- Our schools and University College Isle of Man, as Biosphere Partners, will continue to foster the global young citizens of the future through their Biosphere engagement.

as a Biosphere – in embracing the principles, delivering projects and effecting change.

HOW WILL WE FULFIL OUR STRATEGY?

- The Isle of Man Government will continue to support our UNESCO Biosphere, through its overall decision-making and by providing a dedicated officer and budget to enable us to participate in global UNESCO initiatives, devise and implement local projects, initiatives and events in line with the five Es and communicate successes.
- Our Stakeholder Partnership Group members will continue to oversee the delivery of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man in a balanced way, jointly and through their own organisations, and will contribute to delivering projects and initiatives.
- A youth project will be relaunched to give young people a greater voice within Biosphere and support them to play a hands-on role in delivering projects and initiatives.

- All our Partners will contribute to a sustainable future through their commitment to our Biosphere Pledge, driving positive change in their organisations.
- Our entire community will be the most essential ingredient in our success

- We will measure our performance against the actions outlined in the application that we submitted to UNESCO – see biosphere.im/biosphere-isle-of-man/unesco-nomination-papers/ – and the 5Es and, from 2022, we will publish an annual report.



Photography: Culture Yamin, Sean Corlett, Mike Radcliffe

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

Everyone can be inspired by the five Es and contribute to a more sustainable Isle of Man.

We are all citizens of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and we can all contribute to its aims. Get involved and let's work together for a sustainable future.



#MyBiosphere
#OurBiosphere

 biosphere.im

 Biosphere@gov.im



WHAT ARE WE ALREADY DOING?



LINKS WITH OTHER BIOSPHERES:

The Isle of Man inputs into, and exchanges ideas at, global UNESCO gatherings and initiatives such as EuroMAB and the MAB Youth Forum. It is a member of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves and participates, with other islands, in its Zero Plastic Working Group.



REFILL ISLE OF MAN:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man runs Refill Isle of Man, encouraging publicly accessible premises to offer tap water and other refills to those with reusable bottles and containers, reducing plastic use and pollution and keeping people hydrated. Refill is a scheme of the charity City to Sea.

PARTNERSHIP SCHEME:

Organisations take the Biosphere Pledge and become Partners of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, supporting its aims.



BIOSPHERE LECTURE:

We invite guest lecturers to deliver public lectures that promote Biosphere and sustainability. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Professor Peter Bridgewater.



BIOSPHERE AWARDS:

Our annual awards reward effort across our community to find innovative, impactful solutions to the challenges of how to live sustainably.



CULTURAL COLLABORATIONS:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man works with partners to develop cultural projects that capture the story of our Biosphere.

GIRLGUIDING ISLE OF MAN AND SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF THE ISLE OF MAN BIOSPHERE BADGES:

The organisations' members of all ages work towards their 'Biosphere Badge' by carrying out tasks related to the Global Goals.



SUPPORT RESEARCH:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man supports students researching the principles of living more sustainably.



SDG BOOK CLUB:

The club was launched by the United Nations to develop young people's involvement in delivering the Global Goals. UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is providing a complete set of 17 books to all primary schools.



EVENTS:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man attends events across the Island at which we promote sustainable living.

POETRY MAP:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man collaborated with the Manx Bard and Culture Vannin to create an online Poetry Map of the Isle of Man, one of several cultural collaborations.



COMMUNICATIONS:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man's monthly newsletter, its website, its social media channels, its work with traditional media and its public talks convey the work going on within the Biosphere and inspire others to get involved.

BECOME A BUDDY

Become a Biosphere Isle of Man Buddy to show your support and get regular updates via email.

SIGN ME UP

LINKING TO ISLE OF MAN GOVERNMENT

RESPONSIBILITIES & COMMITMENTS

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man complements and assists in the delivery of the Isle of Man Government's Programme for Government and legislation and strategies right across Government, including:

Active Travel Strategy
2018-2021

Business Isle of Man Executive
Agency Programme

Delivering for Productive Farming
and the Environment: agricultural
strategy 2019/20-2029/30

Department for Enterprise
Executive Agency Programmes
(Digital, Finance, Business and
Visit Isle of Man)

Draft Children's
Weight Management Strategy

Food Matters: development
strategy for food and drink
2015-2025

Future Fisheries: strategy
for sustainable development
of fisheries/marine environment
2016-2021

Isle of Man Government Action
Plan for Achieving Net Zero
Emissions by 2050 – Phase 1

Isle of Man Strategic
and Area Plans

Locate Isle of
Man Strategy

Managing Our Natural
Wealth Biodiversity Strategy
2015-2025

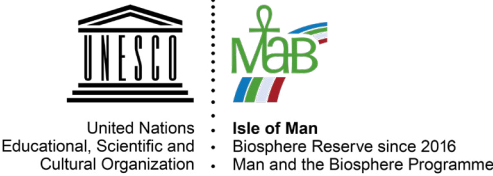
National Development
Strategy for Culture and the Arts

Our Landscape, Our Legacy:
Strategy for Landscape and
Amenity to 2050

Single Use Plastic
Reduction Plan for the
Isle of Man Community

STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP GROUP

‘Working Together for a Sustainable Future’ is published by the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group. The group is chaired by the Chief Minister and its members are Beach Buddies Isle of Man, Culture Vannin, Department of Education, Sport and Culture, the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, Institute of Directors Isle of Man, Isle of Man Arts Council, Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce, Isle of Man Council of Voluntary Organisations, Isle of Man Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Isle of Man Municipal Association, Locate Isle of Man, Manx Fish Producers’ Organisation, Manx NFU, Manx National Heritage, Manx Wildlife Trust, PokerStars, The Children’s Centre, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Youth Forum, University College Isle of Man, Visit Isle of Man.



Beach Buddies Isle of Man



Culture Vannin



Institute of Directors
Isle of Man



Isle of Man Arts Council



Isle of Man Chamber
of Commerce



Isle of Man
Council of Voluntary Organisations



Isle of Man Farming and
Wildlife Advisory Group



Isle of Man
Municipal Association

Isle of Man Municipal Association



Locate Isle of Man



Manx Fish
Producers’ Organisation



Manx NFU



Manx National Heritage



Manx Wildlife Trust



PokerStars



The Children’s Centre



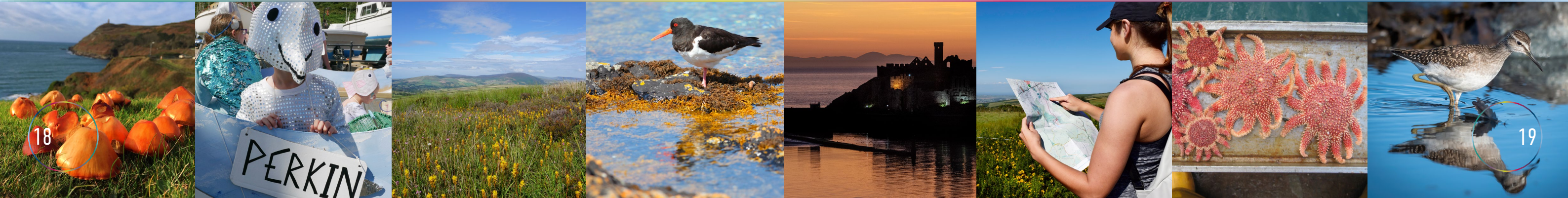
UNESCO Biosphere
Isle of Man Youth Forum



University College
Isle of Man



Visit Isle of Man



THE 5 Es



ECONOMY
TARMAYNYS



ENJOYMENT
TAITNYS



ENVIRONMENT
CHYMMYLTAGHT



ENGAGEMENT
CO-PHOBBLE



EDUCATION
YNSAGH



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Isle of Man
Biosphere Reserve since 2016
Man and the Biosphere Programme



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biosphere.im



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[OurBiosphere](https://www.instagram.com/OurBiosphere)

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